MARTLET

The University of Victoria's Independent Newspaper | www.martlet.ca
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Enrolment too low in B.C.'s universities

UVSS Chairperson Penny Beames cites high tuition as top problem

by Dock Currie

In 2004, the provincial government pledged to open 25,000 more seats in the B.C. post-secondary system by 2010. While the seats themselves may be available, it is looking less likely that students will be able to fill them.

A report this past month from B.C.'s acting auditor general, Arn van Iersel, states that enrolment in the B.C. post-secondary education has, to date, barely broken half the target enrolment level set in 2004.

The implications of the report aren't clear, and assessments vary drastically between student groups and university administration.

"It would seem pretty clear that the auditor general's report outlines that tuition fees and inadequate financial aid are a barrier to student access to post-secondary education," said University of Victoria Students' Society (UVSS) Chairperson Penny Beames, "and how that could be an incorrect assessment, I don't know."

However, the report was not written as an explicit critique of rising tuition fees. The auditor general does mention tuition and fee increases as a contributing factor in the province's failing to meet projected enrolment rates in post-secondary education, along with revised student aid provisions, altered debt levels, fluctuations in labour markets and shifts in demographics. But while the report comes replete with recommendations, lowering tuition fees is not one of them.

Undaunted, Beames notes that "whether or not it shows up in the recommendations, purely by the fact that they're mentioning tuition fees and inadequate financial aid means that they're thinking about it, and that's new."

Conversely, UVic Vice-President Academic and Provost Jamie Cassels doesn't believe it's necessary to factor in recent trends in tuition fees in order to effectively manage the provincial government's growth plan.

"I don't see any connection between what the report says and the issue of tuition fees," said Cassels.

Such a refutation of the UVSS's reading of the report—shared by the Canadian Federation of Students—might seem hollow if not for the fact that UVic is one of the few post-secondary institutions in British Columbia that is both meeting and, in some cases, exceeding provincial targets for seat growth and student enrolment.

UVic administration, said Cassels, anticipated the report to a certain degree and noted that with seats in the post-secondary system increasing rapidly and with B.C.'s population levelling out, the real measure by which institutions might either meet their targets or be found lacking is in their ability to deliver a quality and desirable student experience.

Beames agreed that the quality of the student experience at UVic may have contributed to UVic's meeting its enrolment goals but believes side-by-side comparisons are too simple a model.

"There are also so many other competing factors, especially when you're dealing with rural colleges and institutions that don't necessarily fall into your standard post-secondary university education," said Beames.

Since only 4,000 of the over 7,400 new seats created in the first two years of the program have been filled, the auditor general's main recommendation is a reallocation of both seats and funding to more realistically represent British Columbia's social growth trends for post-secondary education. And such a reallocation, said Cassels, would suit UVic in particular.

"What comes through in the report is that the government just allocated the 25,000 seats across the board without really looking at the costs of different institutions, the different levels of demand at different institutions and the demographic makeup," said Cassels.

"UVic has shown itself to be a place that students clearly want to come to, particularly in relation to graduate growth—we've got some real capacity to grow more, and if the government were to recalibrate the system, I'm sure they would look at UVic as a university that is really performing."

Beames, however, thought plans to adjust the existing governmental program are missing the point and a reallocation of funds isn't what needs to be changed in the province's approach to post-secondary education.

"What we're doing is distracting ourselves from the need for stable core funding for the students who are already here, not necessarily for the seats that we need to open," said Beames. "I think having lots of extra seats is fine. I think it's fantastic if we have the capacity for that, but they're useless if students can't afford to go."

NEWS BRIEFS

UVSS on the Net

Since November the UVSS has a been running a blog for informal contact with the Students' Society. Ask a UVSS question or find out what's going on around campus. Everyone is welcome to contribute at www.uvss.uvic.ca/blog. The blog is looking for tips on upcoming events, suggestions on how to make the SUB a better place and even photos from your latest sordid pub crawl (although they might not post everything they get).

GHB suspected

On Dec. 18 of last semester, as exams were winding down, a semi-conscious UVic student was taken from Felicita's pub to Royal Jubilee Hospital. It is suspected that he had consumed GHB, commonly known as the date rape drug.

Felicita's pub has been under some pressure since the SUB Party fire regulations breach in September.

Jeff Delisle, the new Felicita's manager, thinks it's an isolated incident and said that it's the first he's heard of such things happening at the campus pub.

A rising occurrence of date-rape drugs in the downtown Victoria bar scene has prompted the Saanich police department to remind students to keep a close watch on their drinks.

COMMON SENSE INFORMATION FROM COMPUTER TECHS

Electronic Survival in the Online age...

As with almost everything these days, an electronic variant of what used to be printed on a weekly or even daily schedule is available online. While some things are much easier to look up in the good ol' phonebook, a vast variety have been converted onto the Internet. Hey, you're on campus and I know everyone has access to the information superhighway so here's a list to assist you with your everyday student needs:

Leaving campus?
http://www.bctransit.com/
The bus schedule is online.

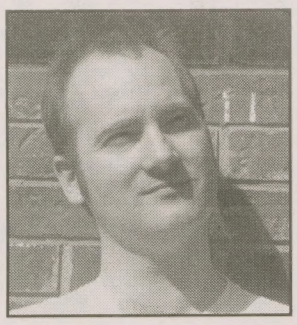
Coming back a little late?
http://www.empresstaxi.com/
You can email your cab pickup time even up to a year in advance can't finish your masters degree in a year can you?

Not leaving campus?
http://www.cinecenta.com/ Show times and shows arranged in a monthly format don't forget your student id card!

Looking for something live?
http://www.livevictoria.com/
Local events around town listed by day
ticket prices and show times to boot.

Ok, so the winter of 1996 has returned, your fridge is full but you can't see out your windows. Since someone else will dig you out and your classes are cancelled, self-sanity and that enemy named Boredom must be kept in check. Considering you might also be on a budget, then you'll need some free entertainment:

A lifetime of Video:
www.youtube.com I think almost every piece of video that has ever been shot resides here. Humor, horror, car crashes, your drunken and unsuspecting dorm buddies, and complete television shows await your viewing pleasure.



A Universe of Games:
http://www.addictinggames.com/ Little flash and java games that flush valuable hours of your life down the drain awaitthee.

News headlines with a twist:
www.fark.com One person started this website of endless news links (which go to actual stories), and it's his full-time job to keep it rolling. Sometimes the comments can be equally amusing. Links updated almost hourly. Things you didn't think you would do online. No, not that!

Order food without talking to anyone:
www.swisschalet.com Ah, the taste of takeout food without picking up the phone. Personally, I have yet to have an order go wrong.

The student standby (AKA Pizza):
www.pizzahut.ca Not all locations can accept online orders but perhaps the one closest to you can accommodate your hunger pangs – it's pizza, and they know how important that is to the student diet.

Groceries anyone?
http://www.thriftyfoodsonline.com/ Yup, don't even leave the seat you're in and stock up the cupboards. Get it all delivered too!

Spend your tuition money or your inheritance:
www.ebay.com I know, you heard of it right? Tips: Ebay's search engine isn't the best, when searching try variants of the words your enter, ie: "beer kegs" can be searched as "beer", "kegs", "beerkegs", "keg" etc. Also, be careful of inflated shipping charges and handling fees. Ebay has recently started to crack down on the shady shippers but many still exist. If possible, send everything via USPS and not courier. Canada Customs likes nothing more than to charge a nice flat fee for laying a finger on your Ebay treasure.

Your computer is your lifeline to the outside world, but sometimes the world wants to look inside. With the exception of your time, you can defend yourself at no cost:

www.free.grisoft.com Free antivirus that never expires or asks you to buy the "full" version. Want a free personal Firewall? Yup. Zone Alarm can be found at www. download.com Make sure you find the free one, as the company also has pay versions. www.windowsupdate.com With the exception of newly see-you-in-court Windows Genuine Advantage update, all other Windows updates are required. Security patches and fixes keep the Windows boat afloat. Ad-Aware, Ewido and Spybot are also useful tools in the fight against malware. These programs also reside at www.download.com

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UVic goes under the knife

Lack of student involvement a concern with plan that calls for expansion of graduate program

by Vanessa Lundgren

Following a year and a half of continuing revision, the finalized Strategic Plan, a document that determines UVic's overall direction in the next four years, will be reinstated this semester.

"What's the saying? 'Plans never work, but planning does,'" said UVic President David Turpin in regards to the plan.

First introduced in 2002, this "guiding document," titled "A Vision for the Future," sets goals for the university in four areas: people, quality, community and resources.

"You constantly have to sit down and re-evaluate the environment and look at the changes that are occurring out there and say, 'What does that mean to us?' rather than just sitting there and being buffeted as the winds change," Turpin said, stressing the importance of the plan's review cycle.

The plan's draft, distributed in November's edition of *The Ring* and on the Internet, stresses that "a changing environment" has resulted in changes to the plan. Notably, an increase in research funding, as well as the provincial government's commitment to increasing the number of post-secondary seats, has led to a period of significant growth for UVic, according to the draft.

Some goals are broad, such as ensuring that academic programs are "of the highest quality," and some goals are much more specific, such as putting the UVic library system "in the upper 20 per cent of a national set of comparable universities." The plan also highlights one important objective when it comes to who the institution aims to recruit more of in the next few years: graduate students.

According to the plan, this marks a significant shift in the direction of the university. Citing both the increasing numbers of mature students coming back to campus as well as a higher demand for "graduate professionals," the university aims to "continue to increase graduate enrolment and programming at a greater rate than undergraduate," as published in the plan.

"It's not an issue of competition," said Turpin. "It's an issue of what provides them with the best sort of research environment at a research-intensive university like the University of Victoria."

Turpin explained that having more graduate students on campus leads to a "win-win situation" where graduate students play a huge role in undergraduate education by taking on teaching assistant positions. The plan states that "fundraising, external funding opportunities and base resources" will be offered to graduate student scholarships and bursaries.

Such new developments may come as a surprise to students. Strategic plan-themed conversation cafés, flyers and even ads published in the *Martlet*, *The Ring* and on the UVic homepage were presented to the student body. Student interest in the plan is lackluster, however.

"I'm never satisfied with the amount of student input we get," said Turpin. "We continue to work. We continue to set up meetings ... you never get as much engagement as you would like. Some people say that we shouldn't be surprised by that. Students are here, they're focused, they're working, they're wanting to take advantage of their classes. And by the time many of the initiatives that we put in place [because] of this plan are in place, they will have long since departed."

Penny Beames, UVSS chairperson and student representative on the Board of Governors, also regretted that few students participated in the review of the document. While she found that the existing student input was "thoughtful and necessary," wrote Beames in an e-mail, she would have liked to have seen more of it.

"I think many good attempts were made to solicit student input. I don't, however, think all of them were properly tailored to the student population," she wrote. "I would have liked to have seen more efforts made for consultation."

Turpin acknowledges that more can and will be done in the future to encourage students' comments or suggestions.

"We keep having to work to increase the level of engagement," said Turpin, adding that student input is vital to the plan and, in broader terms, to the university.

"How could you possibly have it any other way? Unless we understand who our students are, where they come from, what their motivations are ... how can we build the university?" he said.

The final draft of the plan will be forwarded to the UVic Senate on Jan. 12 for approval in mid-January. Once approved, the plan will be distributed widely within the university and outside community.

MEGAN STEWART PHOTO

The focus of the new Strategic Plan will affect both graduate and undergraduate students.

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Deadine is Thursday, January 31 at 5p.m.

Driven to donate

by Jessie Hanson
with files from Matthew Gauk

DOCK CURRIE PHOTO

A UVSS food bank volunteer packs some food to send off for holiday hampers this past November.

The 2006 UVSS Holiday Food Drive, which ran in late November and early December last semester, netted needy families and UVic students a total of 16 holiday hampers.

"I have to admit that I was blown away by the number of donations we received—they just never seemed to stop coming in," said Avery Berman, a third-year UVic student and co-ordinator for the UVSS food bank, which is located in the basement of the Student Union Building.

The UVSS has sponsored a student-organized food bank to ensure that students struggling with paying for their university tuition won't be stripped of a basic necessity.

"Our sole objective is to provide food for students in need," said Mark Chandler, UVSS director of services. "It's only for students, and students pay for this through their tuition fees."

Hunger Count, an annual national survey of food banks and emergency food programs, compiles data on all 502 registered Canadian Association of Food Bank members to reveal specific trends about Canada's poverty.

Thirty per cent of Canadian food bank workers believe reducing tuition and increasing student grants is a priority to combat hunger and poverty, according to the survey. During January and February of last year, the food bank had an average of 44 visitors, and 80 per cent of those visitors strongly agreed that the rise in tuition fees has made it difficult to make ends meet.

"From my personal experience, I have definitely seen a higher traffic later in the semester since loans and money [are] running out," said Chandler.

The food bank allows students to drop in and fill a bag with food of their choice. For a single recipient, the restriction is one bag per week, and for a family, it's two bags per week.

Along with non-perishables such as pasta, canned vegetables and fruits, students also have access to more expensive items, including milk, cheese and tofu.

This year's hamper drive saw about 500 items donated through drop boxes across campus, including about 200 items donated through the McPherson Library's Food for Fines campaign.

Berman figures that the majority of the donations came from staff and faculty, since the donation boxes were more readily available to them.

"Last year I made five hampers," said Berman. "One was even for a family with four children."

Students wanting to donate to the food bank can drop off foodstuffs to B017 in the SUB.

Saying 'yes' to drugs

by Sana Shah

VANCOUVER (CUP) — In professional health programs such as medicine or pharmacy, students are being equipped with knowledge that can be used to abuse the health-care system to their benefit. And, while many forego this practice, others don't.

Students are increasingly finding that the drugs—such as Dexedrine, which functions to lessen fatigue, increase mental activity, elevate mood and create a general feeling of well-being—can be helpful in increasing their capacity to study for long periods of time.

"You can just take a bunch of Dexedrine in the morning, and then you can sit in the library for up to 16 hours without getting tired, and it helps you focus, too—fewer distractions," explained a pharmacy student from the University of British Columbia (UBC) who wished to remain anonymous.

Ritalin and Dexedrine, both amphetamines—a drug class that includes cocaine—act as stimulants of the sympathetic nervous system and are intended as therapy for people who suffer from Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD).

"You can get used to it. Once you experience the relative ease of studying with Dexedrine, it's hard to study without," added the student. "It's like, why would you put in the extra effort when you can just cram in one night with Dexedrine and achieve the same results?"

High doses of Dexedrine can result in euphoria, but upon withdrawal, it can cause severe depression and lethargy.

These side effects, along with the risk of developing heart arrhythmia and a whole host of related conditions, were the reasons Elinda Ho, the attending doctor in the student clinic at UBC, was surprised this kind of abuse was happening.

"Students in the health programs at UBC should know better than anyone else the kinds of side effects these drugs can have—that's why I am surprised this would be happening," she said.

Ho explained that prescriptions for these drugs are not given easily because of their potential for abuse and because of their street value: Ritalin is used to cut cocaine, a practice that is common in Vancouver.

"I would think that would be deterrent enough for these kids in comparison to the minor edge the drug might get them."

Still, in the competitive world of UBC, even a minor edge can be life altering. But not all students are choosing this route.

Logan McNeil, a third-year pharmacy student, said that although he knows he could potentially have access to the drug, he prefers to study the old-fashioned way.

"It's really a matter of ethics, I think. I mean, in anything competitive, school or sports or otherwise, there are always going to be people who are looking for an unfair advantage," he said.

"Ethically, though, you would hope most people don't and are just willing to put in the hard work. Especially in professional programs where knowing the information is vital to your job."

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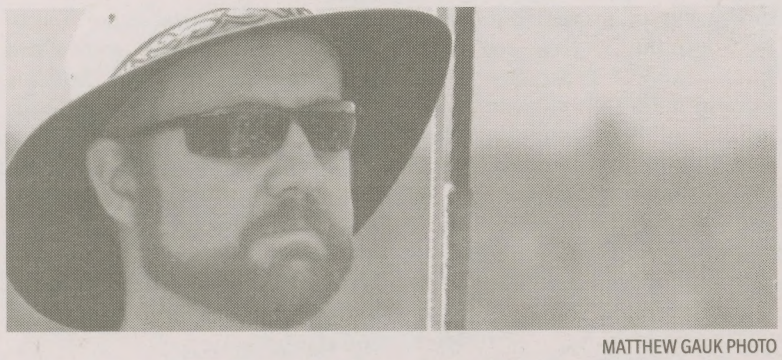
Fiddling with fixed roofs

Call for development of lodges in provincial parks thought to be just 'the first kick at the can'

by Matthew Gauk



MATTHEW GAUK PHOTO

Kevin Smith, seen here at the helm of Maple Leaf, is concerned about the future of our provincial parks.

Kevin Smith spent nine seasons as a BC Parks ranger on the west coast of Vancouver Island. When he bought a 92-foot schooner, Maple Leaf, in 2001 to start his ecotourism business, he was finally able to bring people from all over the world to the Island to experience the parks he knows and loves.

That's why Smith is so livid at the BC Parks Fixed-Roof Accommodation Policy, a call for proposals to develop overnight accommodation in 12 provincial parks. The policy, which was announced by Environment Minister Barry Penner in July, has resulted in proposals being submitted for three provincial parks—Mount Robson, Elk Lakes and Maxhamish Lake.

The B.C. government bundled the 12 parks into two bid processes. The first ended on Nov. 2 with two bids from the Alpine Club of Canada, and the second, which closed Nov. 27, received a bid on Maxhamish Lake park. The government has also received "expressions of interest" on the expansion of services in Mount Assiniboine and Cape Scott parks.

"When people were fighting to create parks, they weren't envisioning that there would be hotels built in them," said Smith, who owns and operates Maple Leaf Adventures. The Victoria-based company has found partners in the environmental and native communities in order to show tourists around public parks without damaging local ecosystems.

"It has to be a sustainable operation; people have to consider the environmental footprint," said Smith, adding that he is skeptical that the parks' potential developers share his concerns.

One organization that definitely does share his concerns is the Campaign for BC Parks, a working group composed of the Western Canada Wilderness Committee (WCWC), Wildsight, the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, the B.C. chapter of the Sierra Club and the Valhalla Wilderness Society. The coalition was formed out of fear that the provincial parks are being privatized and commercialized.

"This policy has the ability to change the nature of the parks system for all time," said Gwen Barlee, WCWC policy director and spokesperson on the issue. Barlee is thankful that most developers have realized the sensitivity of the issue and stayed out of the proposal process.

She is concerned, however, that the wording of the policy may account for anything from simple cabins to full resorts with restaurants and gift shops. It opens the door to other future developments in provincial parks, according to Barlee.

Barlee claims the WCWC received leaked government documents and documents obtained through Freedom of Information Act requests that point to the future development of yet-unnamed high-end park resorts marketed toward affluent international tourists and meant to accompany the provincial government's 2010 initiative. Barlee said this will lead to a focus on the economic bottom line of parks management and the creation of roads, helicopter traffic, staff-accommodation facilities and parking lots for big resorts all over the province.

"This is just the first kick at the can," she said.

At the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) annual general meeting in Victoria in October, mayors, council members and other municipal representatives voted 95 per cent in favour of a motion that stated the UBCM "opposes new private, for-profit, roofed accommodations inside provincial parks."

The Campaign for BC Parks praised the UBCM for their motion and interpreted it as an example of how British Columbians oppose the new policy.

The government's stated purpose in pursuing the accommodation policy is to bring in a "broader range" of British Columbians and tourists to enjoy the parks system.

"Parks play a vital role in conservation, but parks are also for people. The population is getting older, and not everyone who stays in a park wants to sleep on the ground in a tent anymore. We want to provide a great parks experience to a wider range of visitors while protecting the ecological integrity of our parks over the long term," Minister Penner said in a statement. "We will encourage the use of green technologies to minimize the environmental footprint and to showcase made-in-B.C. technology."

Barlee, however, rejects the notion that the government is opening up the parks in order to include the average British Columbian.

"We already have a lot of guide services; people can horseback ride and canoe," she said, adding that the only things prohibiting most people from doing so are cuts to parks funding and new pay-parking meters. "So this is not something requested by the people of this province."

There are already about 160 fixed-roof accommodation facilities in B.C. provincial parks, ranging from small, minimally equipped shelters to large resorts.

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Past lives of UVic's campus

PROVIDED PHOTO

Veteran Margaret Mosley, 18 at the time this picture was taken, served at Gordon Head Camp during the latter years of the Second World War.

by Micah Luxen

Spread out over the area that UVic now occupies are remnants of the past, aged but not forgotten. Fields that now host university games were used less than a century ago to train soldiers; barracks still on campus received Second World War prisoners of war from Japan; and where students now gather to study, servicewomen went to work listening for Japanese Morse code sent from enemy ships.

Margaret Mosley, a lively resident of Victoria, served in the Women's Royal Navy Service in the Second World War, stationed at Gordon Head in the area that is now UVic.

"We worked with wireless communications," said Mosley. "We were listening to Japanese messages—the same as our enemies were probably listening to our messages."

Like similar stations all along the western coast of Canada and the United States, Mosley and her team would listen to the "dot dot dash" of Morse static in a barracks that has now been moved to make room for the UVic Grad Centre.

"It was no big deal," said Mosley. "We were 19 and 18—it was just a job. But now they call us spies, which is so funny to us." Information about their role in the Second World War was kept secret until the 1970s, according to Mosley. Not until the women had a reunion in 2001 that did they find out all the things that Canada did.

"That's a part of UVic's history," Mosley said of the Gordon Head Camp. Mosley was just 18 when she joined the navy. "I had a girlfriend, Vi, whose father was in the army. She was always talking about joining up with me," said Mosley. "Of course, when it came time, her mother wouldn't let her join because service girls supposedly had a rather bad reputation."

Although Mosley's parents were very strict, they never said a word against her decision. She admitted she lived what others would call a horribly sheltered life. "I mean, this is why I still can't understand people not looking forward to an adventure, a difference."

Mosley's adventure took her from her school desk in Toronto to a job as a telegraphist on the West Coast.

"This is going to sound funny to you, but when you get a call from the principal's office in those days, it was a scary deal, but it was my mother calling. She said, 'You got your call up from the navy.' I just picked up my books. Nobody even missed me."

PROVIDED PHOTO

Mosley, as active as she was at 18, still lives in Victoria.

Living in Victoria, Mosley now admits she hadn't understood the relevance of the times she lived in.

"I find it very interesting to see history about the war. While I was here in Canada, something was going on over there in Europe and Japan, which I knew little about. I mean, we were 19 years old, do you think we were reading the newspapers?"

Instead, the veteran said that even for "spies," a job was a job and the women stationed at Gordon

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Deadline to add family members is Jan 31, 2007 4pm!

During the Second World War, Gordon Head was a flurry of military activity

PROVIDED PHOTO

These women, listening for Japanese Morse code during the Second World War, worked in a barracks that was moved to make room for the UVic Grad Centre.

Head enjoyed their responsibilities. Their favourite pastime was watching the soldiers coming out of their barracks.

"We were 19, what the heck would you do?"

The women often reaped the benefits of being the attractive minority. At the time, meal tickets that were given out on the Canadian Pacific Railway were also valid at the Empress Hotel.

"The men who hadn't used their tickets would give them to us, and then we girls would go down to the Empress to eat and drink in style," said Mosley. Although high tea at the Empress was an expensive treat during wartime, the event cost just $4.

In addition to the training grounds around what is now the campus, there were fields full of daffodils, which the women would pick to send home. Because there was no Saran Wrap in those days, the women would wrap the flowers in wet towels and wax paper before they put them in boxes, which would arrive just in time to bloom for Easter.

While Mosley enjoyed her time on the West Coast, the experience seems different in hindsight.

"It didn't feel like wartime here, and although I was doing a job that was absolutely necessary, you might say it was a pleasant experience, which leaves me with some sense of guilt, knowing that men were dying."

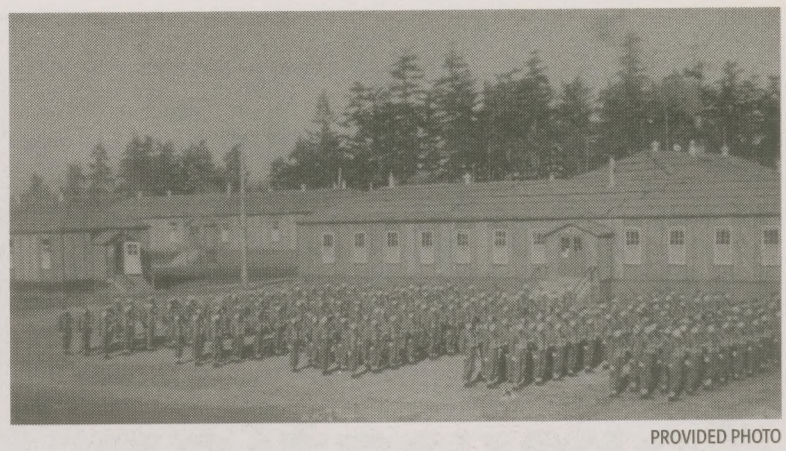
It took Mosley years to march in the Remembrance Day veteran parades, although she never missed a Remembrance Day service. When she did get up enough courage to march, she realized what those men went through.

"You think, here I am, a marching veteran alongside these men that suffered so much. But you know, even after all these years, some men in the parade still cringe when they let the 21-gun salute off.

"You can't forget, while I was listening to code, my future husband was dodging German U-boats, and he was the same age as I was."

One of her last responsibilities in Victoria was to discharge officers down at the docks. At that time, a ship containing prisoners of war released from Japan arrived in Victoria. "You never saw anything like it in your life. We saw the walking ones, but then there was ambulance after ambulance." The former POWs were taken up to the soldiers' barracks at UVic. Mosley's friend Betty was assigned to register those men as they came home from Japan. "Betty still says it was the saddest thing she ever did."

After 23 months in Victoria, where she met her future husband Ed Mosley, who had been discharged from the navy, Mosley returned to her native Ontario. "I met him on the outdoor skating rink. That's where my sister and cousin met their husbands too,"



PROVIDED PHOTO

These barracks on campus held Canadian Forces during WWII.

said Mosley. "I know this sounds funny, but chocolate bars were rather scarce in those days after the war, and this sailor came along and wanted to skate. He was eating a chocolate bar, and he said, 'Would you like some?' I thought he would break a piece, but he said, 'Here, take a bite.' That was it. You eat his chocolate bar, you have to get married."

Mosley and her family of four gradually moved back to Victoria. All the while, Mosley played violin or viola in many orchestras, including the Calgary Philharmonic, the Hamilton Philharmonic and the orchestra at UVic. Now in Victoria's Civic Orchestra and the Juan de Fuca Orchestra, Mosley plays with long-time friend Myrtle Dyer.

"After knowing her for ages, we got talking," said Mosley. "Turns out our names are in the same program for the Victoria Symphony, way back in 1944."

Mosley first played in the Victoria Symphony when it was just four years old and when musicians made 50 cents a rehearsal and $1 a show, during the war.

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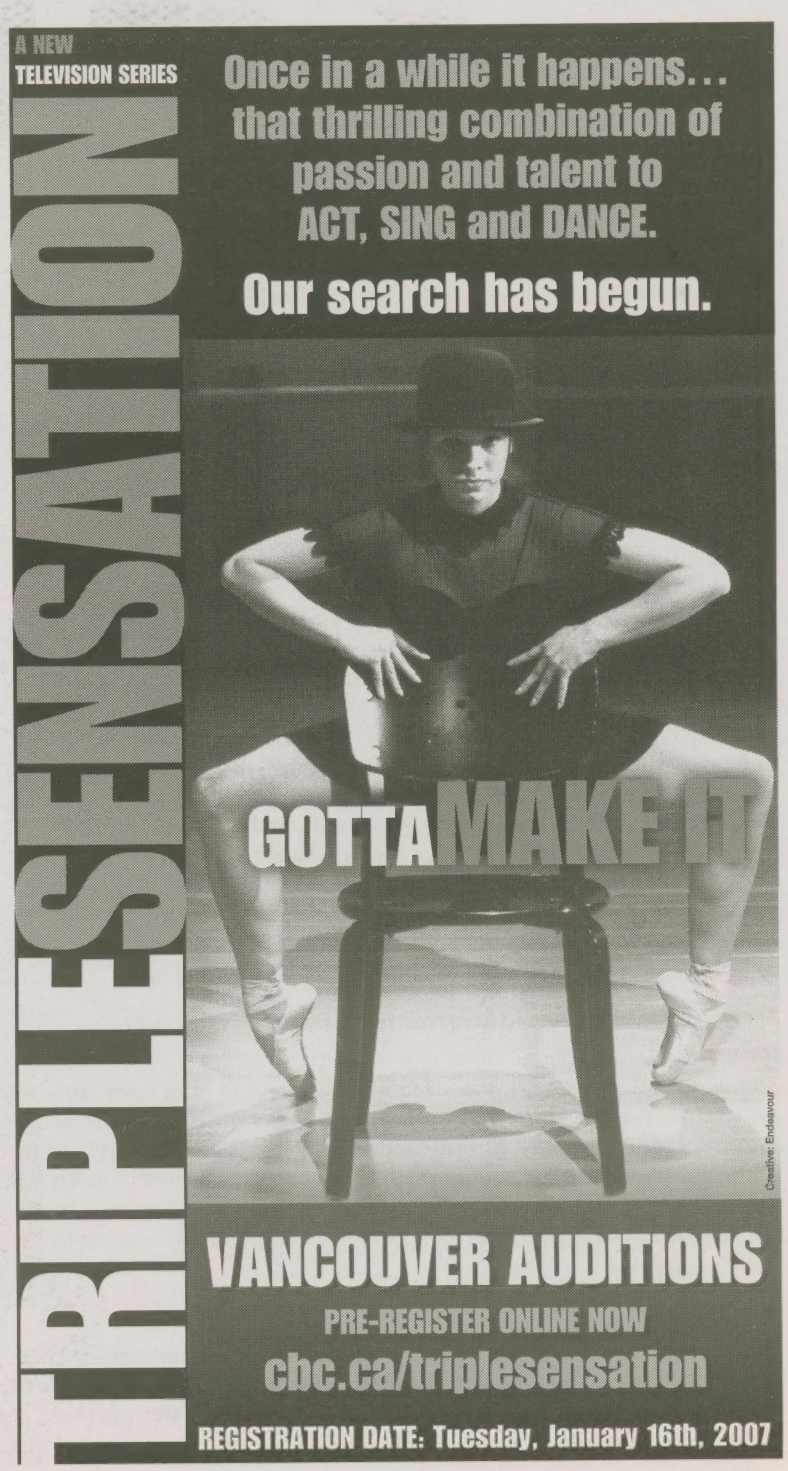
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UVic plans world domination

The Strategic Plan is one of the most important documents concerning the University of Victoria. In it lies the fate of this institution, and we're going global.

Most students at UVic know little or nothing about the Strategic Plan, which is titled "A Vision for the Future," and how it will affect the school. And that's unfortunate.

When the Senate and the Board of Governors approve the final draft of the plan, it will change what the university will look like in the future–specifically, it will change who will be attending.

UVic is caught up in a battle for the best faculty and students. It's a fight that will need new weaponry and fresh tactics when, over the next few decades, the population of 18- to 24-year-olds in B.C., and in particular the Greater Victoria Area, will stop growing. Since that group is the university's target audience, they've got to figure out another way to keep pulling in tuition dollars.

The solution lies in graduate students and students from outside the province and the country. According to the plan, enrolment in graduate programs will be increased at a greater rate than undergraduate programs. Throughout the plan, there is a large emphasis on research and funding for graduate studies. The idea of boosting graduate enrolment is not new to "A Vision for the Future"; it was also mentioned in the 2002 draft. But the issue is certainly explored and expanded more in 2007's edition.

What is new to the plan is an entire section devoted to international goals. UVic is a "destination" university, which is just a glossy way of saying that a large portion of the student body is not from Victoria; students travel to get here. Since the amount of university-aged people in the area is dropping, the university must compete with other schools on a global level. This means turning UVic into a diverse and therefore appealing home for international students. The theme of diversity is central to many of the aims in the plan.

To try to push UVic onto the international stage, the number of students spending semesters on international exchange programs will be doubled by 2010, there will be an increase in international student enrolment, there will be additional support for students whose first language is not English and recruitment will be aimed at attracting students from "diverse regions and backgrounds." Additionally, research will focus on areas of global importance, with more international research opportunities for professors.

Global citizenship is another addition to "A Vision for the Future." According to the plan, all of the university's graduates will engage as global citizens, and students are expected to have "awareness of the global community, recognizing the rights and responsibilities of citizens within it."

The plan doesn't leave out old standbys (environmental sustainability, alumni support, staff and student retention), but its new goals are bold, modern and well conceived. It is the kind of forward thinking a Caucasian-dominated, mid-sized university on an island at the edge of Canada needs to make itself known as one of the top universities in the country and, one day, the world.

Angry? Pleased? Confused? Aroused? Tell us: letters@martlet.ca

Martlet has an open letters policy and will endeavour to print every letter received from the university community, with priority given to undergraduate students. Letters must be typewritten, submitted on disk or by e-mail and include your name and student number for verification. Letters must be under 200 words. Deadline for letters is noon on the Friday before publication date. Letters will be prioritized by order received. Letters with pseudonyms or group names will not be printed.

Editorial topics are decided on by staff at our weekly editorial meeting at 3 p.m. every Friday in the *Martlet* office (SUB B011). Editorials are written by one or more staff members, and are not necessarily the opinion of all staff members.

ANTHONY FRATTAROLI GRAPHIC

CALLING STUDENT ACTIVISTS: TWO CAUSES NEED SUPPORT

Rally for accessible education

by Penny Beames
UVSS Chair

When you think of student activism, what comes to mind? Coalition building between student groups? One-on-one discussions between students and political figures? How about stacks of research and data that back up well-honed arguments for particular causes? Maybe not.

But all of these are integral to effective student demonstrations. And nothing says student activism like a good old-fashioned rally.

Activism can play a huge role in your educational experience. University is a time to stretch your intellectual muscles, figure out where you stand on issues and take action.

Believe it or not, Canadian students over the past 75 years have rallied behind causes ranging from the Vietnam War to the inexpensive purchase of jock straps. In most recent history, students across B.C. protested against the massive tuition hikes that occurred between 2001 and 2004. Consequently, we are now protected by a tuition fee cap.

Canada saw its largest student rally in 1995, when students across the country organized to prevent the implementation of income-contingent loan repayment schemes. Hundreds of thousands of students and supporters took to the streets to protest this regressive loan policy, and we're still protected from it today.

And on Feb. 7, students across the city, province and country will come together to rally in support of accessible education. Students in Victoria who believe that everyone, regardless of their financial background, deserves access to post-secondary education will gather on the lawn of the legislature to deliver that message.

The rally won't reflect the teargas and rubber-bullet grandeur of the 1960s. It will, however, feature bands, speakers and events that will allow students to collectively participate in affecting positive change.

All are welcome to come be a part of the debt wall, a photographic representation of the debt load students shoulder trying to get through school.

You could also write a letter to your MLA to tell him or her about how the rising cost of education has affected you, your friends and your family.

So be there. Eat some free food and get to know other students who share your interests. Rain or shine, it's bound to be an event to be remembered.

Tell Harper to take action in Darfur

by Ben Fine and Josh Scheinert
STANDCanada.org Directors

One of the dominant narratives of the 20th century was humanity's collective failure to stand up to evil. But despite global indifference, one group of people consistently demanded justice: students.

October 1956, Budapest: Hungarian students march through the streets, triggering that country's revolt against Soviet rule.

The 1960s, the American South: White students from the North partake in "Freedom Rides" in an attempt to desegregate buses in the racist South.

The late 1980s, around the world: Students help lead an international boycott against apartheid South Africa, crippling its economy and helping to bring down the regime.

Fast-forward to 2007, Darfur: Its endless graveyards are evidence of crimes against humanity. Burned villages are becoming permanent reminders of what has transpired under our watch. The faces of refugees tell stories of unspeakable horror.

But there is hope for Darfur. World leaders and celebrities alike are speaking out. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has called the situation "unacceptable." The UN Human Rights Council held a special session on Darfur. Sudan is starting to feel the pressure. In short, we are moving closer to putting UN peacekeepers on the ground to strengthen civilian protection.

Now it is time for Canadian students to join together to pressure our government to help end the killing in Darfur. After four years of inaction, over 200,000 are dead and millions displaced. We need to take a stand.

Canada can and must take on a leadership role in ending this crisis. On the diplomatic front, we can help jump-start a multilateral mission to protect civilians. Our CF-18 aircraft could help enforce a no-fly zone to prevent Sudanese aircraft from bombing villages as they aid the Janjaweed militias. Financially, our aid dollars can provide critical support. It's time we came out and committed–we have the capacity to lead.

Using that capacity is simple. Stephen Harper just needs to pick up the phone and rally his government and world leaders to join in implementing a strong multinational force on the ground to protect civilians.

But if the prime minister is going to do this, he needs to see that his constituents demand more—that Canadians demand leadership.

This is where we come in. Our government answers to us. We just need to be heard.

Students know how to organize and mobilize–we do it on our campuses every day. We're experts at writing letters, signing petitions and getting our message out there.

From Victoria to St. John's, it's time Canadian students speak as one national voice demanding a real response to the Darfur crisis.

The narrative of the 21st century is being written as Darfur is at a crossroads. Let us fight for change as hard as students have before us. If we don't, and Darfur dies, a part of our humanity dies with it.

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University of Victoria's Independent Newspaper

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From peacekeepers to killers

Afghans die while Canadian soldiers "stand on guard for thee"

by Norman Ed Baskerville

On Jan. 1, NATO issued a press release stroking themselves for the $185,000 they spent on building and refurbishing schools in eastern Afghanistan.

Isn't it wonderful that the military alliance agrees with Whitney Houston that "the children are our are future"? Yet, two days after that humble altruistic announcement, they admit to killing too many innocent Afghan civilians, including children, in 2006.

In one "mishap," a NATO mortar test fell short of its target, killed a young girl and badly injured two young children in their home. Why they were testing weaponry near civilians is unclear.

Meanwhile, the Canadian contingent is busy handing out gifts to the villagers to distract media from the fact that they're endangering the safety and welfare of civilians.

The spin of an imperialist war is such a creative endeavour.

The truth is that Canada's NATO force has been implicated in some of the worst blunders of the war so far.

Canada was involved in a NATO air strike debacle last October that killed 31 people in the Panjwaii district of Kandahar province.

And a Canadian soldier on guard duty was solely responsible for the Dec. 12 killing of a 90-year-old man who came to visit his old friend and former student Hamid Karzai, Afghanistan's president, at the provincial governor's palace in Kandahar City. Shockingly, it has been reported that the man had already been given clearance to enter the outer checkpoint by Afghan soldiers who knew he frequently visited the palace.

As Richard Nugee, spokesman for NATO's International Security Assistance Force, points out, they haven't killed as many civilians in Afghanistan as the Taliban, whom Nugee said are "showing no remorse at all."

And I'm sure the Afghan people are comforted by the fact that NATO feels bad about the deaths of the innocents they say they're liberating.

During any military action, civilian causalities occur, but in the modern war era, when targeting and communications technologies are touted as reliable and efficient, such atrocities are not supposed to happen.

But by relying heavily on air strikes—a means of protecting NATO soldiers—they are sacrificing the lives of Afghan civilians. Ah, the courageous warrior.

All this makes me wonder what Canada, once considered a leader in peacekeeping, is doing in Afghanistan in the first place. Oh yeah, keeping with the terms of article four of the North Atlantic Treaty, which demands we fight alongside another member who is a victim of an armed attack. And on Sept. 12, in response to the abhorrent previous day's attack on the U.S., the treaty was invoked for the first time in its history.

Like many Canadians, I'm not against military actions that are purely humanitarian in nature or even a reprisal for attacks brought upon an innocent nation that has no past record of meddling in world affairs. But it's quite obvious the U.S.'s motives for the invasion of Afghanistan are questionable at best and despicable at worst.

O Canada, from peacekeeping to allying with the warmonger—what a fall from grace.

Dignity for disabled child important

Ashley's controversial surgery justified only in her case

by Jessica Smith

Dignity is a hard quality to nail down. "Keeping your head held high" is the adage that comes to mind when I try to define it.

It's the primary concern that journalists, doctors and bloggers have had for Ashley X, the Seattle child with developmental disabilities so severe that her parents had her undergo the "Ashley Treatment"—a hysterectomy, growth-stunting hormones and the removal of her breast buds—to prevent her from physically maturing from a girl to a woman.

Talking about her dignity seems strange because Ashley, nicknamed "Pillow Angel" by her parents, can't raise her head from her pillow or roll over in bed.

But I don't think Ashley's dignity is in question. Her parents say that even though she has the mental capacity and motor skills of a three-month-old baby, she is generally happy, responds to affection from her family and is a source of great joy for them.

As far as her dignity is concerned, it sounds like she is keeping her head high. Her dignity is her responsibility, not her parents. Their job is to keep her happy and healthy and to recognize her dignity by treating her with respect.

Mary Johnston, a journalist and disability rights activist, is widely quoted for asking: "Can you imagine such a series of surgeries as Ashley has undergone even being considered, much less condoned, by a hospital's ethics committee were Ashley not disabled?"

With all due respect, the comment surprised me. In an article about Ashley in the online media analysis, education and advocacy site *Women in Media and News*, Johnston is critical of society's desire to medically normalize disabled people. Yet her question suggests that Ashley should be medically treated as though she were not disabled, in effect forcing a normalizing standard on her.

Johnston was also quoted in *The Guardian* expressing fear that the procedure would be used on children with spina bifida, who have physical disabilities but "whose brain is fully functioning." True, the procedure is wholly inappropriate for those children, but Ashley's brain is not fully functioning. The "Ashley Treatment" is individually tailored to her needs and would be mutilation for any patient with a brain more developed than Ashley's or who was at all self-mobile.

A woman I grew up with is developmentally delayed, and I've seen her change through the course of our friendship. One of the things I think is hard for her is how her body grew up while her mind stayed behind.

She's uncomfortable with the ideas of boyfriends and kissing and gets anxious when we talk about those things. The idea of being like everyone else is important to her—when we go to movies, she likes me to order the same pop as she does so we have that in common. She tells me I shouldn't have boyfriends, and I believe it's because she knows she won't.

Despite her confusion, my friend definitely would not be a candidate for the Ashley Treatment; she's aware of the differences between her and her friends. Recognizing her dignity means allowing her to deal with them as she chooses.

Ashley's parents say they can't be sure Ashley recognizes them; it's unlikely she can compare herself to a grown woman and understand what she's missing.

Artificially keeping Ashley's body a closer age to that of her mind is more likely to keep her happy and healthy than a body that would experience urges that she'd experience but never understand or satisfy. Not to mention the other physical benefits from the procedures—fewer bedsores, no strain from large breasts and no menstrual pain.

Recognizing Ashley's dignity means recognizing the individuality of her disability and doing whatever possible to help her have the life and body she can handle the most comfortably. The rest is up to her.

Explain to me why you hate Ontario

by Hilary Agro

Unless you're my parents, reading this online from Hamilton, Ont., you're probably affiliated with UVic in some way and therefore live in B.C. In this case, it's a safe enough question to ask—what's your problem with Ontarians?

Everyone has a gripe about that most populated of provinces, so let's hear it. What's your reasoning? They're rude, of course. They're egotistical. Ontario sucks. Ontario smells. I've heard it all.

Now I have another question for you. What exactly is your evidence for this generalization? Nearly everyone I talk to, though they feel very strongly about the supposed miserliness of Ontarians, stumbles when it comes to rational reasoning.

Even if they've been to Ontario, it's seldom for over a week, and they can't say that every person they encountered there was a jackass. One or two bad encounters is not an accurate representation. There are douchebags in B.C., too.

I've found that the number one complaint, arrogance, is actually about Toronto. So I should probably make something clear before I go on, because this simple fact of geography has apparently slipped by everyone in B.C.: Toronto is not the same thing as Ontario.

And I love Toronto. It's a great place, just like Vancouver, Calgary and Halifax are. I wear my Leafs jersey proudly while being verbally assaulted by my friends and Canucks fans. But I'm not from Toronto, just like most Ontarians, and I consider the city to be a small part of the Ontario experience.

Still, the major criticism of the province is always the same: "Torontonians think they're the centre of the universe." The fact that this has actually become an idiom is, contrary to what you might think, a sign that it's not true.

Way back when Ontario's capital became the largest, most prosperous city in Canada, some jealous Canadian apparently decided that Torontonians surely must be egotistical about their success. This rumour spread until all of Canada, including most of Ontario, decided that those rich bastards must be conceited. Now people spout off that phrase without really knowing why. They've heard it over and over, and so by the time they actually meet a Torontonian, they already have prejudices.

Meanwhile, those rich bastards continued to love and respect the other provinces and territories, which is probably the saddest part of the whole saga: B.C.'s bitterness is completely one sided. Ontarians worship British Columbia. When I told my friends and family that I was going to Victoria for school, every one of them sighed and told me how jealous they were. The mountains are gorgeous, the weather is warm, the pot is fantastic and there's surfing and snowboarding like nowhere else.

And though we love and long for the B.C. lifestyle, we still appreciate what Ontario has as well: beautiful provincial parks, snow-filled winters and hot summers, terrific nightlife, multiculturalism and 30 universities.

So cut Ontario some slack. We're all Canadians, which means that we're supposed to be nicer and more generous than the rest of the world.

AHMED MUMENI PHOTO

Harshest Critic

For student author Devin Krukoff, winning national acclaim doesn't mean he's satisfied

by Rosemary Westwood

Devin Krukoff sits at a table, his six-foot-three frame entirely too large for the chair. A stack of papers marked with red ink is clutched in his hands. He resembles a younger and non-bald Big Friendly Giant, the hero of Roald Dahl's children's novel *BFG*, with pale skin, a scruffy reddish beard and navy eyes. When he walks, it's with the self-effacing yet determined gait of the humble giant, as if he's off to find his destiny, unsure what that might be but headed there nonetheless. The crowded food court in Cook Street Village offers an ideal workspace for a writer who finds it impossible to work at home—the Van Morrison, clinking of dishes and layers of conversation fade; the writing comes into focus.

Interviews make Krukoff uncomfortable. "Self-promotion is bizarre," he tells me, reclining in the chair and scrunching his eyebrows. "Anything you say sounds self-congratulatory." Now 30, the graduate student in the University of Victoria's creative writing department has been writing since childhood, when his mother red-penned his work, and has been studying at UVic for six years. He crosses his arms. He smiles. He's trying, but unsolicited scrutiny is just not his thing.

At the department's faculty reading in September, Krukoff hunched over the podium and glanced at the audience before turning to the first page of his debut novel, *Compensation*. The book chronicles the life of Richard Parks, who, as a boy, finds inspiration in a classmate with leukemia and fakes different illnesses to avoid work in his lifelong pursuit of idleness. Published by Thistledown Press in Saskatchewan, *Compensation* was nominated in November for two Saskatchewan Book Awards: the Fiction Award and the City of Regina Book Award. Krukoff gave no explanation of his book to the packed auditorium (he purposely avoided it) but instead began with the first sentence. He cleared his throat, tucked a stray dirty-blond curl behind his ear and began. "*Five in the morning, and all the streetlights go dark on Piccolo Lane.*"

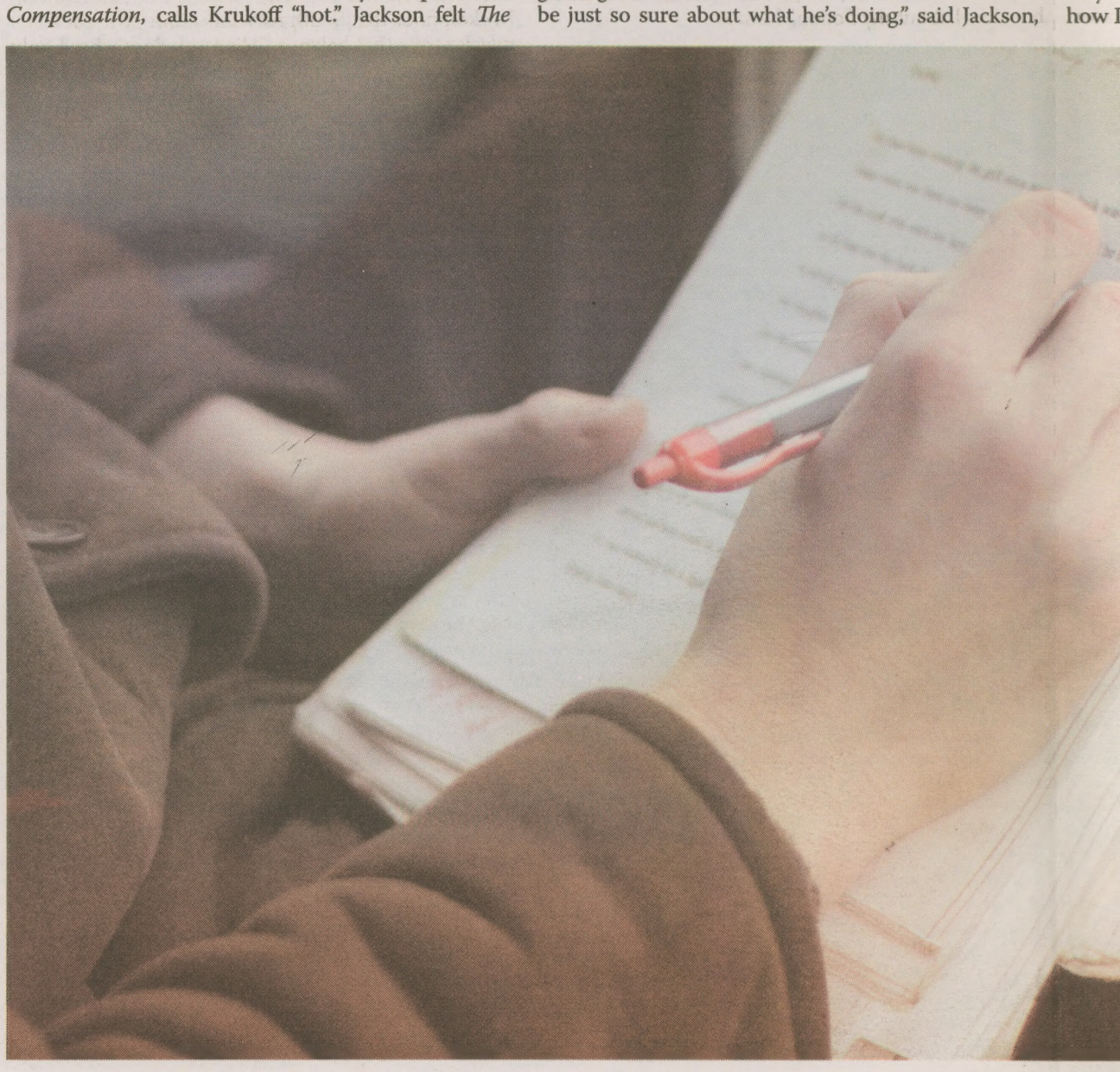
Some have criticized *Compensation* for being too cold and distant, the protagonist hard to identify with. "They're waiting for him to get nicer or do something redeeming and he never really does," says Krukoff, but he doesn't apologize for it. "However small, however repulsive the character might be, we're tapping some inherent part of ourselves." In fact, Richard taps into a few more parts of Krukoff than he'd like. Both dislike "actual work," doing all they can to avoid what Krukoff calls "a real job." Krukoff would like to think he's not as mean as Richard, and while he tried to "slide in some humanity," he feels his brand of humour and choice of character are a reflection of a pessimistic world view and impossible to avoid.

In a class at UVic, Krukoff wrote *The Last Spark*, the piece would become his first published short story. It also won the 2005 McClelland & Stewart Journey Prize and $10,000 for best short fiction by a new writer. A year later, *Compensation*'s shiny cover appeared on bookshelves across the country.

"Whenever something goes right, I always focus on—" he says, pausing. "Like when I won the Journey Prize, the first thing I thought was: 'Great.' And the second thing I thought was: 'Now I have to give a speech.'" And that's Krukoff: allowing himself a mere second of elation until public speaking comes up.

The Journey Prize jury members, all acclaimed writers themselves, called *The Last Spark* an "exceptional story." Lorna Jackson, an author and the faculty member who directed Krukoff in the study that produced *Compensation*, calls Krukoff "hot." Jackson felt *The Last Spark* was superior to the other contenders. Yet it's as though Krukoff talks of an entirely different piece. He attributes most of his success, including winning the Journey Prize, to luck. "It just happened to be, for whatever reason, what they were looking for," he says. "But I don't think it was the strongest story in the book." Neither is he convinced that awards are the best standards for judging success—not that he wasn't pleased to receive two Saskatchewan Book Award nominations for his work. Critical acclaim has been a catalyst for his decision to write as a career, but had he not received the nominations, award and book deal, Krukoff believes he'd still be writing.

A Regina prairie boy, Krukoff begins to explain what brought him to UVic but quickly goes silent. "I'm not very good with interviews," he apologizes. "I tend to draw these blanks." This was expected. "Verbal commentary doesn't come easily to him," Jackson told me a few days earlier. From the beginning, his talent was obvious to her. "He seems to be just so sure about what he's doing," said Jackson,



AHMED MUMENI PHOTO

"I don't know if I've always been that confident. But if I am, it's probably due to lack of confidence in every other area of my life."

who also taught Krukoff in undergraduate workshop courses before the directed study. "It's as if he doesn't have any self-doubt on the page at all, and I really admire that."

Compensation illustrates the surety with which Krukoff writes—each word is carefully chosen and the writing so tight that not a single chapter breaks the flow from page one to 147. This praise surprises Krukoff. "I don't know if I've always been that confident," he says, his voice barely audible. "But if I am, it's probably due to lack of confidence in every other area of my life."

Perhaps the confidence in Krukoff's work is no more than the consequence of a merciless perfectionist. He finds the first draft "fun," after which the editing process is endless. A story is only finished when he hits his deadline. "It sounds stupid, but I was embarrassed when it came out," Krukoff says of his acclaimed short story, "because I wanted to take—and it happened with this book too—take a pen to it and edit it and change it." A poetry classmate of Krukoff's once said that poetry is never finished, it's just abandoned. "And that's how I feel about my fiction," he says.

AHMED MUMENI PHOTO

One aspect of fiction he believes he does well in is style. He focuses on language, rhythm and flow and hopes that his writing is more "lyrical" than others'. It's the dry, deadpan humour, prevalent in much of Krukoff's work, that Jackson admires. "It's what I like to read," Krukoff says, "so I just kind of naturally turn toward irony—but it does have its limitations." He finds that the best writing consists of more than dry humour. "I guess the trick is to strike a balance between that irony and hope for something good." Krukoff finds that South African author J.M. Coetzee's novels strike that balance. "His work does what I only hope, in my work, to do someday." Krukoff's struggle for unattainable satisfaction, however, continues to propel his dedication to writing. "You're never going to achieve it and be fully happy and content, and that's what makes life interesting."

There is not a large number of people that Krukoff lets close to himself or his writing. He declines to talk about his relationship with ex-girlfriend Sarah Feldmen beyond her place as the one person he trusts with his writing. He has always been quiet, the type to have a few friends and cultivate close relationships with them. Family is central for Krukoff, and, after six years on the West Coast, he still considers Regina home. He misses the seasons and the simple vegetable choices in the grocery store. "Red chard?" he asks.

As Krukoff's mother and the one who's been most involved in his writing, Ilsa Krukoff shows more enthusiasm for her son's success than Krukoff does. "He really wants everything to be exactly right," she says. She also mentions that Krukoff is a self-taught musician. Krukoff looks bewildered at this. "That's not entirely true," he says. He taught himself the guitar ("but a lot of people do that") and picked up the fiddle by relearning what he absorbed as a child playing classical violin. He also plays the mandolin. When and why Krukoff become self-critical and introverted is a mystery to him. The confidence that Jackson finds so powerful in Krukoff's writing, Krukoff denies he possesses.

Compensation is a longer project, and therefore a large step, but Krukoff doesn't feel that the writing is more accomplished than in earlier work. He even feels the novel came late. "When I was 18, I wanted to have my first book out when I was 21 ... I kind of feel like I'm a little behind now, but things are starting to happen."

In Krukoff's current project, his yet-to-be named thesis novel, the narratives of numerous characters—35 so far—combine during one day when a snowstorm hits the city. When he finishes school in the spring, Krukoff hopes to take the manuscript to the Banff Centre for a month of intensive workshopping, after which he'll start sending it out to publishers. "The next one will be better," he says, and quickly retracts. "I shouldn't say that." The project could have become a collection of short stories, and although Krukoff has more experience in that genre, he thinks he's finished with short fiction. For writers, novels offer a larger, more sustained look at something, as well as a wider audience.

Despite his success, writing isn't paying the bills. Krukoff is living off the Journey Prize money, inheritance and generous parents right now, but come springtime, he'll be job hunting. He hopes to go into editing and has no interest in teaching for the same reason he doesn't enjoy readings. But Jackson isn't convinced. At the faculty reading, she found him mesmerizing. "It was kind of charming to have him be that expressive about how afraid he was, as well. To see somebody that big physically and with that kind of reputation already, it takes a lot of guts to show yourself that honestly in front of a big audience." Krukoff remembers the audience's response differently. "I thought I heard someone sigh in the middle of the reading, and I started reading faster because I wanted to get finished sooner," he recalls. "I was just happy to be done." Except for readings, which Krukoff acknowledges are unavoidable for a writer, he sees his introversion as a strength. "There's something safe about doing what we do—being kind of holed up and doing whatever we do and sending it out in an envelope," he says with awe. "There's something kind of scary about realizing people are actually reading this."

At the end of the one-hour interview, I thank him for his time and for being a great interviewee. He gives me a confused look. "Am I? I don't feel this has gone well."

2007's up-and-coming Canadian artists

by Hilary Agro

As we all know, the Canadian music scene is growing faster than Barry Bonds' testicles are shrinking.

So to keep you in the know, here are three of my favourite bands and artists who also happen to be, in the immortal words of Mugatu, so hot right now.

Islands

The first song I ever heard by Islands attracted me because of its hilarious title, despite its having nothing to do with the song. "Don't Call Me Whitney, Bobby" was an instant five-star on my iTunes list.

Islands' story is just beginning, but has nonetheless gone through many shufflings of bands and band members. The group was founded in Montreal by drummer Jaime Thompson and Nicholas Thorburn, who does vocals, guitar and keyboard. They were two of the three members of the Unicorns, a short-lived but brilliant lo-fi experiment founded by Thorburn and his high school friend Alden Ginger.

After an EP and a popular album called *Who Will Cut Our Hair When We're Gone?* the Unicorns broke up in December of 2004. A few short months later, Islands was born.

Return To The Sea, Islands' April 2006 debut, was well received by the Canadian indie circuit. Though its dancey, sometimes spaced-out rhythms are more polished, the Unicorns' sound is clearly recognizable underneath the pop in Thorburn's keyboard and unique voice. And of course, the Unicorns' characteristically morbid lyrics still pepper the songs.

Islands has grown considerably since its humble beginnings. The current lineup includes Patrice Agbokou on bass; Aaron Harris on drums and percussion; Patrick Gregoire on bass clarinet, guitar, banjo and keyboard; and Alex and Sebastian Chow on other instruments. However, they've also lost one of the founders—at the end of last May, Jamie Thompson left the band.

Islands has toured North America and Europe with bands such as Cadence Weapon and Metric. They even hit up Victoria in November, and I feel sorry for anyone who didn't see that rock-out.

Good news for Islands fans came just this week: the band announced on Jan. 6 that in February they will head to the studio to record a followup to *Return to the Sea*.

"I'm really jazzed about it—we've got all our material, we've got an album title and there's practically a track listing," said Thorburn. "It will trump anything that's come before it in a really rosy way."

I know I'm excited. Despite their gruesome lyrics, Islands is one band that just plain makes you happy.

Jason Collett

No Canadian indie music article can go without mentioning Broken Social Scene, and this one is no exception.

Formerly part of the Andrew Cash Band, Jason Collett, who was also a touring member of the Toronto super-group Broken Social Scene, is fast becoming a respected singer-songwriter in his own right.

In the late '80s and early '90s, Collett gained recognition and praise for his work with Andrew Cash. After joining and touring Canada with Ursula, an alt-rock offshoot of the Andrew Cash Band, Collett decided to take a break from music making to devote more time to his family.

However, Collett had too much talent to stay out of the music business. In 2000, Andrew Cash and Hawksley Workman joined Collett to form the more country-inspired alternative outfit Bird. Their first and only release, *Chrome Reflection*, had a classic, old-school pop/rock feel underneath the country rhythms and was critically well-received.

Bird soon dispersed, which left Collett free to work on his solo efforts. His 2001 debut album, *Bitter Beauty*, was aptly titled, with twangy, soft alt-rock songs of heartbreak heralding Collett's soon-to-be-trademark sound. In 2003 he released another wittily self-conscious but appropriately titled work, *Motor Motel Love Songs*, a compilation of old and new material that rings of a rockier Ryan Adams.

After touring with Broken Social Scene from 2002 to 2004, Collett released *Idols Of Exile* in June 2005. The BSS influence is evident in the catchy, upbeat tunes, but thankfully, their epic 8-minute space voyages are not what Collett took away from the experience. Collett's simple, just-slightly-country style is still alive and kicking.

Collett's music just keeps getting better, and this indie veteran shows more promise every year. Since the release of *Idols*, Collett has been busy performing with such artists as Feist and Guster, live and on CBC Radio. Later this month he will do a small tour of Japan before returning to Ontario in February for Ottawa's Winterlude festival.

Joel Plaskett

Joel Plaskett seems to encounter nothing but good luck. In reality, luck has little to do with it, as this Halifax native has more talent than anyone knows what to do with.

Maybe you remember Thrush Hermit, the energetic band that exemplified 1990s Canadian alternative rock. The band was signed to the same record label as Sloan and Eric's Trip, Joel Plaskett's clear, expressive voice rang out as Hermit's front man and guitarist. After releasing three EPs and two albums, including the excellent *Clayton Park*, Thrush Hermit split amicably.

Plaskett then used some leftover Hermit songs he'd written to release *In Need of Medical Attention* in 1999. The refreshingly minimalist, contemplative tones of these tracks are quite different from Plaskett's previous upbeat, rocky work, but his unique sound is recognizable.

Drummer Dave Marsh and bass player Tim Brennan joined Plaskett in 2001 to form the Joel Plaskett Emergency. Their first album, *Down At The Khyber*, finally brought Plaskett back to the limelight he'd enjoyed with Thrush Hermit. They followed up two years later with 2003's rockier *Truthfully, Truthfully*, which won Best Rock Record at the East Coast Music Awards, where last year Plaskett himself won Male Songwriter of the Year.

From there, Plaskett's star just kept rising. In 2004, he was signed on as a "rock coach" on the CBC Television documentary series *Rock Camp*. A year later, Plaskett released another solo album, *La De Da*, which went back to his more singer/songwriter *Medical Attention* roots. He even has a DVD out now, *Make a Little Noise*, and his popularity couldn't be better demonstrated than with the fact that his song "Nowhere With You" is now featured on a Zellers commercial.

Plaskett's working hard, and hopefully he'll soon come out West and grace us with another one of his energetic performances. Until then, I'll keep rubbing my homemade Joel Plaskett voodoo doll on my map of Victoria.

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REVIEWS | 2006 TOP TEN ALBUMS AND MOVIES

The *Martlet* hearts TV on the Radio and *The Departed* most of all

by Laura Cameron, Robyn Luff and *Martlet* staff

Albums

#1. TV on the Radio
Return to Cookie Mountain
Interscope
TVOTR achieves epochal dimensions with this album. *Return to Cookie Mountain* is undeniably vanguard, and yet it measures the vital signs of our generation.

#2. The Hold Steady
Boys and Girls in America
Vagrant
The Hold Steady sings about parties, drugs, girls and rock shows with an almost frightening sincerity. The songs on this album ring truer with each listening. The combination of brilliant heartfelt lyrics and hardcore '90s-style rock riffs are unforgettable. These are fist-pumping, jump-up-and-down anthems that will bring you to your knees.

#3. Regina Spektor
Begin to Hope
Sire
With inspirations running from the Bible to orca whales to Julian Casablancas's lack of editing skills, this one is kitschy without losing its pop sensibilities. The songs are jangly, beautiful and bittersweet; they resonate in your head whenever you're not listening to them. It's sad, angry and hopeful thrown together in exactly the right amounts.

#4. Band of Horses
Everything All the Time
Sub Pop
On *Everything All the Time*, Band of Horses mixes indie rock, country twang and a little pop to create a stunner of debut album. Ballads such as "Funeral" are hauntingly gorgeous, and country rockers including "Great Salt Lake" use banjo and pedal steel to great effect. Any band that champions the pedal steel gets an A+ in my book.

#5. Tom Waits
Orphans; Brawlers; Bawlers and Bastards
Anti
Tom Waits looks at blues music, LSD and current events as aspects of Americana in the same way that an 11-year-old looks at pickles, strawberry jam and licorice as aspects of a potential sandwich. But while the child's sandwich might prove to be ill considered at best, Waits's is nothing short of delicious.

#6. Yeah Yeah Yeahs
Show Your Bones
Interscope
Show Your Bones is exhilarating. This is a tenacious second album.

#7. Cat Power
The Greatest
Matador
Chan Marshall's voice moves from breathy to loud and works perfectly as the main instrument on this collection of Southern-style soul songs. Lovelorn lyrics mix with twangy guitars to forge that whiskey-soaked sound. Yes ma'am, I believe you did live in bars and dance on the tables.

#8. Ghostface Killah
Fishscale
Def Jam
Fishscale is a consistent succession of independently compelling tracks that fuse together to make a comprehensive discourse on drugs.

#9. Future Sex/Love Sounds
Justin Timberlake
Sony
This ex-boy-band sensation will be immortalized alongside the likes of Prince and Michael Jackson in the annals of pop. With the help of maestro Timbaland's Midas touch, J.T. brought sexy back. How did he do it? "One: cut a hole in a box."

#10. The Rapture
Pieces of the People We Love
Universal
The Rapture's sophomore album has seen their transition from ear-splitting post-punk to slick post-funk. While the album is not without errors in judgment (the Mustang Ford song), it's a one-ingredient recipe for a dance party that can reunite all past residents of the house of jealous lovers.

Movies

#1. *The Departed*
Martin Scorsese
Warner Bros. Pictures
The Departed is in a class with such classic crime dramas as Scorsese's opus *Goodfellas* and Roman Polanski's noir masterpiece *Chinatown*. Brilliant performances by Leonardo DiCaprio, Mark Wahlberg and Alec Baldwin mix gritty suspense, sharp-edged dialogue and comedic relief to make for a wholly satisfying cinematic experience.

#2. *The Queen*
Stephen Frears
Pathé Pictures
The best movie that nobody bothered to see in 2006, The Queen focused on the political turmoil in England surrounding Princess Diana's tragic death in 1997. Helen Mirren's stunning performance as the conflicted monarch drew polite applause from art house audiences around the world.

#3. *Little Miss Sunshine*
Jonathan Dayton and Valerie Feris
Fox Searchlight Pictures
In this offbeat charmer of a comedy, a dysfunctional family struggles through a road trip to get their daughter to a beauty pageant. The script is brilliant and the ensemble cast even better. Steve Carell shines as the depressed gay brother and Greg Kinnear is hilariously awful in the role of a wannabe motivational speaker. Abigail Breslin as beauty pageant hopeful Olive will absolutely melt your heart. This one's a winner.

#4. *The Good Shepherd*
Robert DeNiro
Universal Pictures
DeNiro invokes the Cold War era by depicting the struggle between two intelligence agents who are stripped of the romantic trappings of the espionage genre. This film does not bow to Hollywood conventions and, as a result, the work maintains its historical integrity.

#5. *Babel*
Alejandro González Iñárritu
Paramount Vantage
A talented cast, exquisite cinematography and a quiet yet biting statement on globalization make *Babel* a tour de force among the films of 2006.

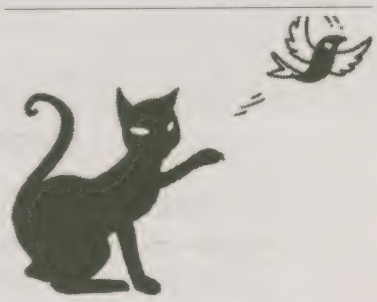
#6. *Letters from Iwo Jima*
Clint Eastwood
Warner Bros. Pictures
Letters from Iwo Jima is the yin to *Flags of Our Fathers*' yang. The former depicts the account of the American invasion from the Japanese perspective while the latter shows the American perspective. CNN's Tom Charity called *Letters*' "an American masterpiece" and, in one of a precious handful of moments, CNN is right.

#7. *Volver*
Sony Pictures Classics
Pedro Almodóvar
Volver, Spanish for "return," is a subtle treatment of the line that distinguishes between binaries such as love and abuse, and life and death. The film examines Spanish culture and its affect on the women who reside in the La Mancha region that Almodóvar grew up in.

#8. *Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan*
Larry Charles
Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation
This is the movie everyone was talking about this year. It was hilarious and uncomfortable at the same time. You've got to admire Sacha Baron Cohen for having the balls to make this movie. Trying to buy a pussy magnet, escaping a Jewish bed and breakfast and asking a Southern society woman to allow his hooker to join them for dessert manages to be funny and provocative at the same time.

#9. *Brick*
Rian Johnson
Focus Features
If you missed this movie, it will be a joy to rent. Joseph Gordon Levitt (yes, that kid from *3rd Rock*) gives an outstanding performance in this film noir full of drugs, violence and stunning dialogue. In his first full-length film, writer/director Rian Johnson delivers a stellar script and brilliant plot in this high school murder mystery.

#10. *An Inconvenient Truth*
David Guggenheim
Paramount Classics
An Inconvenient Truth clarifies the complex issue of global warming. The film has been acclaimed for it's academic merit and galvanizing influence over its audience.



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TOP TEN
FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 8TH

✲ means Canadian artist. † means local artist.

1. SWAN LAKE †
   Beast Moans (Scratch)
2. TRILOBITE
   Trilobite (Independent)
3. SPANKY WILSON & THE QUANTIC SOUL ORCHESTRA
   I'm Thankful (Ubiquity)
4. FROG EYES †
   The Future Is Inter-Disciplinary Or Not At All (Acuarela)
5. AWAY RI'O †
   All Things Shining (Aaargh)
6. THE SADIES *
   Tales Of The Rat Fink Soundtrack (Outside)
7. A HAWK AND A HACKSAW
   The Way The Wind Blows (Leaf)
8. LADY SOVEREIGN
   Public Warning (Def Jam)
9. JOANNA NEWSOM
   Ys (Drag City)
10. SELDA
    Selda (B-Music)

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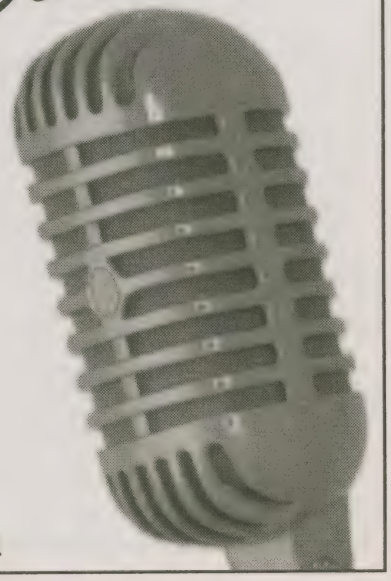

Constructing *Marion Bridge*

by Jessica Smith

Victoria has a lively theatre scene with many small, talented companies vying for venues, rehearsal space and audience attention, but relationships among the people involved are more co-operative than competitive.

One theatre company with a focus on creating a community for actors is the Workshop Actors of Victoria Ensemble (WAVE), made up of three local acting teachers: Monica Prendergast, Gina McIntosh and Kate Rubin. Their new show, *Marion Bridge*, is acted and directed by all three women and is showing at the Metro Studio Theatre until Jan. 14.

"There are a number of small companies in Victoria doing wonderful things, so the focus of WAVE is really on actor development," said Prendergast.

The play "is a finished production as much as we can do for the three of us. We really are still working. We feel like there's lots more to go," said Prendergast. "Our productions are not intended to be full productions—we really are more focused on the process."

The workshop quality of the play is evident in the minimal sets and lighting—technical decisions that Prendergast said are intended to highlight the actors. Prendergast believes that when full sets and lighting are added to a performance, "the acting stops" and becomes repetition.

One aspect of the acting that still feels like it's being workshopped is the accents. The play is set in rural Nova Scotia, and the level of Maritime accent for the characters, who are sisters, is uneven.

PROVIDED PHOTO

From left: Agnes (Kate Rubin), Theresa (Monica Prendergast) and Louise (Gina McIntosh).

"We didn't want to push the East Coast accent too hard, because it's actually very easy with the Maritime accent to slip into sounding Irish. We're not East Coasters, and it's a very challenging thing to nail that particular dialect," explained Prendergast.

While three different voices for three distinct characters makes sense, and each woman has built an identity for her character, the deliveries are so different that it's difficult believe they're siblings.

The plot concerns the relationships between the sisters when they return to their childhood home because their mother is dying. Prendergast is playing a nun, Theresa, who lives on a farm and loves working the earth but is having a crisis of faith. One of the most powerful moments in the play is a breakdown she has in front of her sister Agnes (Kate Rubin) about her inability to see God in all the tragedy in the world and her inability to fix the problems.

Prendergast grew up Catholic but left the church soon after she graduated from high school. She said there were frequent conversations during rehearsals "about how difficult it is to keep your faith when the world is so screwed up."

Agnes is a broke alcoholic actress who moves to Toronto struggling with a teenage trauma that is revealed midway through the play. She begins as the most sympathetic character in the play, but as it progresses and the other characters develop, Agnes becomes an urban audience's window into life in the small Maritime town.

Gina McIntosh plays Louise, the youngest sister, who never left home and who has always been "a little strange." McIntosh's performance is the strongest of the three. She uses the heaviest accent, and for those who are used to seeing her as Flora, the former host of *Atomic Vaudeville*, the change is amazing. She is able to take a withdrawn character and turn her into the heart and soul of the play.

Watching actors work on their trade without the distraction of complicated lights and sets is a rewarding experience, and each of these actors have enough talent to keep an audience interested through two acts.

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'Living monument' disappoints

by Dock Currie

PROVIDED PHOTO

The "quintessential Canadian house band"—The Tragically Hip—should lose the Jumbotron and play in small venues again.

After almost 25 years as the musical backbone of Canadiana, The Tragically Hip didn't miss a beat playing their doubleheader at Save-on-Foods Memorial Centre this past weekend. Some would say, though, that it's those missed beats that made the Hip our national band in the first place.

When it comes right down to it, The Tragically Hip is a bar band, and the band is at its best when the audience is barely paying attention to it, let alone paying over $50 a ticket to see them. So, at an arena show, the band came off as staged and too polished. Worse, everyone was hanging off of every word from Gord Downie, lead singer for the Hip, hoping he'd launch into his standard ranting and raving at any moment. It never came. Instead, the Hip thought they could appease a nearly packed house at the Memorial Centre with a fancy light show and some overwrought dancing from Downie.

It's painful to have to rebuke The Tragically Hip. It's a living monument to Canada as a distinct and myth-saturated culture, which is something nice to hold on to in a world that often wants to believe we have no culture.

Each of the band's 11 studio albums holds recognizable Canadian classics, and Downie's 2001 solo disc, *Coke Machine Glow*, is still one of the most beautiful artifacts of Canadian poetry. But none of this makes the Hip exempt from criticism for a mediocre show, and that's what you got if you went to the Memorial Centre this weekend.

One thing that was better than mediocre was the opening band on their current tour, The Sadies. These bluegrass rock 'n' roll wunderkinds were throwing their heart at the crowd for every song, and somewhere between their uncontrollable enthusiasm and musical prowess, they stole a few hearts right back. It's good to see that the Hip hasn't stopped taking an interest in good Canadian bands that deserve a shot at a big and receptive crowd. A good opening band, however, isn't enough to warrant the ticket price on its own, and there wasn't much at the show this past weekend that did.

The Hip's new album, *World Container*, isn't their best by any stretch. The singles "In View" and "Lonely End of the Rink" are a catchy little pop tune and a barely tolerable jock-rocker, respectively. And while they tried to mix it up during the show, trying to find a way to follow a bombastic, canned-drum anthem with an old standard such as "Cordelia," they never coalesced, lacking any context from an aloof and oft-gyrating Downie.

The Tragically Hip didn't get where they are by having boring and unlistenable shows, and the Sunday show this weekend was far from that. The Hip are pros as soon as they strike up, and hearing them play is hearing the musical lifeblood that runs in everyone from They Shoot Horses Don't They? to Joel Plaskett. However, when a few thousand other fans surround you, it's hard to feel like you've had any kind of connection to this quintessentially Canadian house band.

I'll go to another Hip show when they loose the Jumbotron screens and Downie feels like sharing some goddamned worldly wisdom.

Hipsters, hippies and the tank-topped crowd

by Matt Lundy

"Oh man! I wanna make a pop record with Quincy Jones!"

It's not often you hear a quote like this from a critically acclaimed indie band—one that's frequently compared to fellow Brooklynites and hipster darlings Animal Collective and Grizzly Bear. But Dana Janssen of Akron/Family is dead serious.

Janssen speaks with such childlike excitement that you can only believe him. Simply put, when the dust settles and the hype subsides, this four-piece group wants to produce something that lasts, something timeless to transcend the incessant shuffling of buzz bands and music trends that detract from the music itself.

Perhaps it was fitting that Akron/Family was double-booked with '60s Mod Night at Lucky Bar back on Dec. 13. That night, they had to wrap up their set by 11:30 p.m. before a steady barrage of British Invasion songs and up-tempo soul numbers hit the speakers along with the white tank-topped women who probably weren't down for the psych-rock coming from the bearded band.

Before playing and throughout the first few songs the band repeatedly asked for the lights to come on in order to better see the crowd. It was a move fitting for a 90-minute set full of crowd interaction, including asking for input on future song titles or leading the audience through primal noise-making that would have made Jane Goodall proud.

Their set featured mainly new songs that will be recorded this spring in Austin, Texas and included assaults on the understated folk tendencies of their past recordings. They even found time to work in old favourites such as the chant-worthy "Future Myth" and "Moment," which pummels the audience with a minute-long opening of spastic noise-rock.

Much like their March 3 show at Lucky Bar, the band meddled mid-set with an improvisational song. It's been said that improvisational music is more fun for the artists than the audience—well, it's true. Unless you used the break to have a smoke or buy another beer, you found this out the hard way.

You really can't take the "Family" portion of their name lightly; the band's set sees all four members take lead vocals at different points and sing collectively often, either with yelling or with more ambitious three- and four-part harmonies that ring true to those on record.

"Its main intention is to reflect and inspire joy," says Janssen of the group's communal vocal duties. Their repetitious lyrics read like mantras, and Janssen stands behind his drum kit during the final moments of their encore song, soaked in his tank top and sweats, eyes closed while singing.

Most bands might be pissed to be double-booked with a night of themed music and to have an imposed curfew for their sets, but Akron/Family couldn't care less. Janssen interrupts the interview on two occasions to sing along with a girl-group soul song and references The Beatles' "Because" as an inspiration for the haunting vocal harmonies of their track "Awake."

Ryan Vanderhoof, guitarist and a dead-ringer for Devendra Banhart, sings along with "Love Me Do" while checking on the merch table. Miles Seaton, bassist, even leaves the comfortable confines of backstage (comfortable because of the stockpile of free beer) to hit the dance floor for a few songs.

Whatever stigmas commonly get tacked onto indie bands does not apply to Akron/Family; they are genuinely happy to be in the position they are in.

In short, they're the type of band that can bring hipsters and hippies together—maybe even the tank-topped crowd too.

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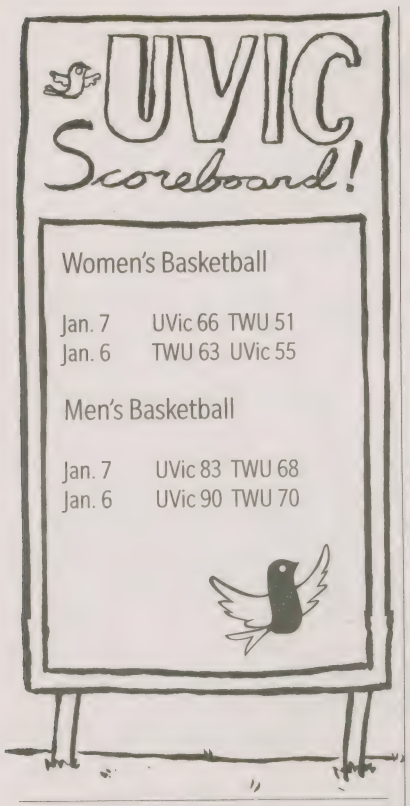
UVIC Scoreboard!
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Jan. 7 UVic 66 TWU 51
Jan. 6 TWU 63 UVic 55
Men's Basketball
Jan. 7 UVic 83 TWU 68
Jan. 6 UVic 90 TWU 70

WHO SAID WHAT

"This is the first rainout since I played baseball back in Saskatchewan"

– Basketball coach Craig Beaucamp, after learning his game was postponed because of a leaky roof

Vikes men too much for Trinity Western

by Wayne Potoroka

WESLEY SCOTT PHOTO

The Vikes huddle before their first match against Trinity Western University.

The UVic men's basketball team started the new semester with back-to-back victories over the Trinity Western Spartans at McKinnon Gym.

The Vikes improved to 12-1 with the Jan. 6 and 7 win, and stayed two points behind the first-place UBC Thunderbirds in the Canada West Pacific division.

UVic pulled off the double win without leading scorer Jacob Doerksen, who was nursing an ankle injury he suffered in a Dec. 2 loss to the T-Birds. Vikes captain Steve Moore said the team missed Doerksen on the stat sheet but played extra hard in his absence.

"We're a team and that's how we play," said Moore. "When one guy goes down, all the other guys step up."

Second-year forward Tyler Hass stepped up big with a game high of 20 points—more than double his per-game average. UVic also ripped down an impressive 50 rebounds compared to the Spartans' 28.

"[The Spartans] don't have a lot of size," explained UVic coach Craig Beaucamp, "so they're not in a position to win a lot of boards."

UVic only trailed once after Jason Keegstra put the Spartans up by one for 30 seconds with a pair of freebies from the charity stripe. Although they dominated, the Vikes still encountered a few self-imposed wrinkles that needed ironing out.

Point guard Josh Whyte got into trouble early after picking up two quick fouls four minutes into the game. Beaucamp had little choice but to sit his star playmaker to ensure he'd be around for the second half. The decision proved hard on the team, said Beaucamp.

"We struggled to bring the ball up. Decision making at half court was not good, [and] we didn't get the ball inside much," said Beaucamp.

With Whyte back in for the second half, UVic controlled the court, moved the ball well inside and opened up enough lanes to make the Malahat jealous.

Hass streaked down one of those lanes midway through the second half to get on the end of a Whyte long bomb and slam down an uncontested dunk that rattled the backboard and, it would seem, the Spartans, who never rose to the challenge after that.

UVic took game one 90 to 70.

Whyte quarterbacks Vikes to win

Trinity coach Stan Peters made adjustments for game two that had his Spartans looking like they could achieve an upset win.

"We got the ball into our post players, which caused them some problems," said Peters, "[and] we tried not to allow them to get easy transition hoops."

The Vikes also ran into further foul trouble with game one hero Hass spending more time keeping warm on the sideline bike than on the court.

"He never really got into the game," said Beaucamp. "It was a calamity of fouls in short spurts."

Whyte, however, was able to stay foulless and served up a game high of 11 assists. "Yesterday was brutal, having to watch," said Whyte. "Today I felt good out there. I was aware of their traps and I always knew there was an open man."

The game's tipping point came with the Vikes up six and the Spartans threatening with three minutes to go. Trinity's Jon Schmidt drove hard to the hoop, but Moore was there to swat away the layup. A minute-long 15-0 run and a 21-point lead for the Vikes followed.

Vike Brandon Ellis led all scorers with 21 points, Bollinger added 11 boards to his weekend total of 27 and Mitch Gudgeon was named man of the match for his 15 points and 5 rebounds. The Vikes also shot a near-perfect 24 of 26 from the line in the 83-68 win.

The Vikes head to the flatlands for their next games, meeting the University of Saskatchewan Huskies (5-7) and the Brandon University Bobcats (10-2).

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Smashing new league for tennis stars

by David Karp

The new year has brought a new sport to B.C. universities—tennis.

A three-tournament tennis league has been established and includes UVic, UBC and SFU. The league kicks off in Victoria with the 2007 UVic Invitational Tennis Tournament at the Cedar Hill Recreation Centre on Jan. 11 and 12. At the end of the three tournaments, the best team will win the Collegiate Cup.

"What a lot of our campuses have found out is that there are a lot of good players hanging out around their campuses," said Ryan Clark, CEO of Tennis BC. "It was just a matter of organization."

Clark said the new league gives top Canadian players, who may have otherwise gone to a U.S. college to play tennis, a new option.

"There are a lot of people who like playing competitively, but they like having the ability to just practise twice a week instead of five times a week."

The B.C. league will also place an emphasis on fun, with teams going out to socialize after matches.

UVic's tennis team has five players who compete annually at the Canadian national championships, said UVic Tennis Club president Daniel McCombe. This is the first year the UVic Tennis Club has existed.

"We kind of coach each other," said McCombe. "Everything we do is for each other."

Eventually, McCombe hopes that the university will fund the tennis team, but he said a solid program must be in place before that happens.

"We don't feel we have a finished product that the Vikes would want to support [right now]," McCombe said, but added the new league is a step in the right direction.

Other schools are getting excited about the new league too.

"Before this year, a lot of good players didn't have the motivation to be involved in the [SFU] tennis club," said Arman Kaveh, events coordinator of the SFU Tennis Club. "But now they are."

SFU, who will compete at the 2007 U.S. Tennis Association (USTA) National Campus Championship in North Carolina, should be a powerful force in the league, although the team may be lacking the talent on the women's side it needs to succeed.

"We're hoping that by having the social events and the tennis tournaments, we'll motivate them to come out and play more tennis and practise more to even the team out," said Kaveh.

Teams from Washington and Oregon will also be invited to B.C.'s tournaments. The University of Oregon will be sending a team to compete at UVic's tournament.

In fact, the USTA Pacific Northwest section is recognizing B.C.'s league as a qualifying event for their college championship, the Club Cup.

"It gives a kind of international flair," said Mark Toppe, Tennis on Campus co-ordinator with USTA's Pacific Northwest section.

There may be other opportunities for UVic tennis players to compete. Clark said that Tennis Canada will be announcing a national university championship to be held with the Rogers Cup in Toronto.

"You might be the warm-up match to [men's tennis stars] Federer and Nadal," he said. "And they're going to have player passes with meals. They could be eating lunch next to [female tennis star] Sharapova."

Kings axe MacAulay

by Dock Currie
with files from Matthew Gauk

With a daunting stretch of losses behind them and their playoff hopes looking grim, the ECHL's Victoria Salmon Kings have done what they usually do—fire their head coach.

Assistant coach Mark Morrison was offered the top job on Dec. 29, becoming the team's fourth head coach in three seasons. The Kings responded, promptly snapping a six-game losing skid with a 3-2 victory over the Alaska Aces that same night.

Morrison, who took over from head coach Tony MacAulay, has been a staple in the Victoria hockey scene since his days playing for the now defunct Victoria Cougars.

With the Cougars, he played alongside future NHL stars like Grant Fuhr and Paul Cyr before playing for the New York Rangers. He represented Canada at the World Junior Championships in 1981, '82 and '83, winning the gold his second time and bringing the bronze home the other two. After spending more than 20 years playing and coaching across Europe, Morrison returned to Victoria.

"What I bring is a bunch of experience and a different style of play than what's been going on here," said Morrison. He thinks that letting veterans such as Steve Lindgren help run the bench and be more defensively minded can improve the team.

"What he's trying to do is get the players to hang onto the puck more," said Salmon Kings general manager Dan Belisle.

"I certainly don't dictate that kind of thing," he added. "But at the end of the day, the more puck possession minutes you log, the more games you're going to win."

Watching the games played throughout December, there was a sense in the Salmon Kings' front office that some of the players had "shut down" on coach MacAulay, Belisle said. Even more troubling was Victoria's position—third last in the league.

"This is a team that should be competing in the top half of the conference, not the bottom half," said Belisle.

He added that not all of the onus for the Salmon Kings' poor performance fell on MacAulay's shoulders, but noted it's a lot easier to try a new coach than it is to fire 20 players. Moreover, Belisle thinks the roster they have now is underperforming given the level of talent they have.

"In an effort to turn things around and get the team back, at least starting to play the way they're capable of playing, we felt we needed to make a coaching change," said Belisle.

"Coaching success is measured in wins and losses, and in this particular case, there weren't enough wins."

PROVIDED PHOTO

Mark Morrison becomes Victoria's third coach in four seasons.

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Vikes slip to Trinity

by David Karp

A great start turned sour when the UVic women's basketball team lost at home to the Trinity Western Spartans on Jan. 6.

After falling behind 12-10, the Vikes forced themselves into the key against their much shorter opponents to finish the quarter up 21-14.

They continued their run in the second quarter thanks to two quick baskets by Ashley Yee. The Vikes would stay in command until halftime, finishing a comfortable 34-23 in front.

All should have been well for UVic—especially with Trinity's leading scorer, Randi French, suffering from a knee injury. French only saw five minutes during the first half and was limping heavily after running up the bleacher stairs during halftime. "It sucked," French said. "I wanted to play so bad."

But the second half saw the Vikes crumble like a stale peanut-butter cookie. The turning point came when Spartan guard Katie Haworth scored two three-pointers 30 seconds apart to cut the Vikes' lead to one.

Spartan coach Danielle Gardner said the threes were important. "It pulled us into the game and lighted a bit of a fire beneath us which is what we needed," she said.

UVic coach Brian Cheng had seen enough and called a time out. "Stop screwing around!" he yelled at his players, who looked dejected. But his words wouldn't resonate.

Trinity didn't take over the game as much as the Vikes fell apart. The team looked desperate, missing easy shot after easy shot. The Vikes finished the quarter down 44-40.

The Vikes tried to redeem themselves in the fourth, with Yee pocketing three baskets in less than a minute to tie the game at 50. But the Spartans prevailed, taking the match 63-55.

"We let down," said Cheng. "I think we thought we were going to come in here in the second half and Trinity was going to roll over and give it to us."

Vikes redeem themselves

The Vikes redeemed themselves the night after, finishing off the Spartans 66-51.

The game started on Jan. 7 where it left off two nights earlier before being postponed due to a leaky roof, with the Vikes up 25-14 at the end of the first quarter.

It looked like Trinity might be able to come back when they cut the Vikes lead to 32-30 with a minute to go in the first half, but this time UVic woke up.

"We were shooting well, finishing our shots, getting in low and moving the ball well. And then we just stopped doing that. They picked it up on defence," said French, who led the Spartans with 11 points despite playing only 12 minutes with her injured knee.

Yee stepped up for the Vikes with a game high of 14 points, including five to start the third quarter.

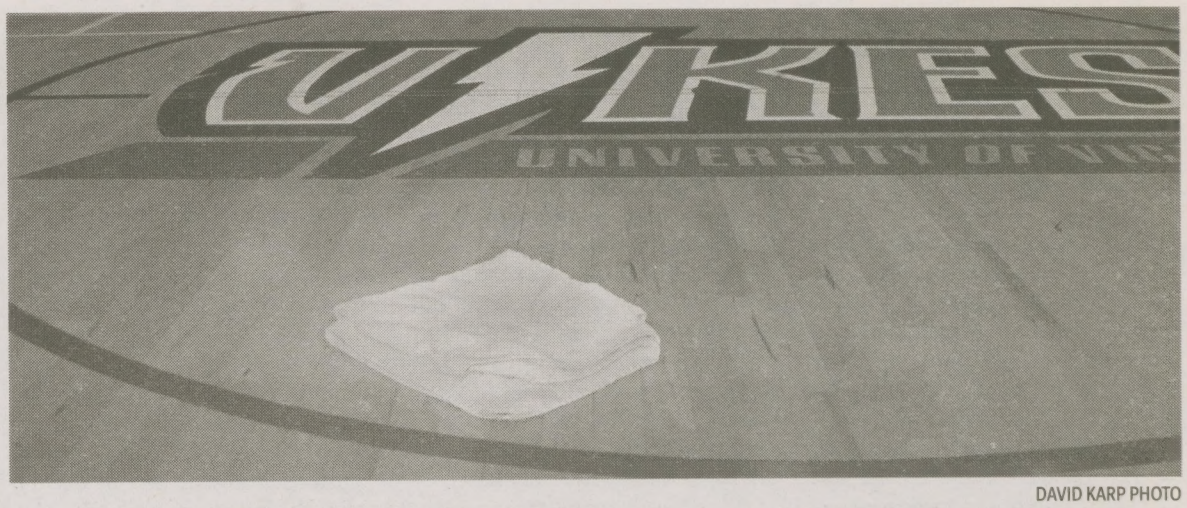
"I've been working on my shot a little bit," admitted Yee. "We were getting more offensive opportunities."

Shooting was the main difference between the teams, said Spartan coach Gardner.

"I think the difference is that they were able to make shots and we didn't shoot very well from the court."

But Vikes coach Cheng said it was defence that won the game.

"[The Spartans] competed for the full 40 minutes—our defence just held the court."



DAVID KARP PHOTO

A towel at centre court of McKinnon Gym collects water from the leaky ceiling.

Basketball games rained out

by David Karp

Indoor sports aren't supposed to get rained out. But that's exactly what happened when a leaky roof at the McKinnon Gym forced the postponement of two Vikes basketball games on Jan. 5.

Clogged gutters on the roof of the gym and more than 2 centimetres of rain caused the roof to leak over centre court during the first quarter of the women's game against the Trinity Western Spartans.

The leak went unnoticed until Spartan Katie Haworth slipped on the puddle, losing the ball to Jane Anholt, who beat the buzzer to end the quarter, making the score 25-14 in favour of UVic.

"They got a layup off of it, which was pretty cheap," said Trinity's Randi French, but she admitted the postponement of the game was a mixed blessing. "This gives us a chance to regroup."

Vikes coach Brian Cheng said that playing with the leak was unacceptable.

"If there's any water on the court, there's danger, and we don't want either group of kids to be put in that position of danger."

Fans were left waiting in their seats while officials determined what to do about the puddle. After half an hour, the leak subsided and both teams warmed up for 10 minutes but returned to their dressing rooms afterward.

"Ladies and gentlemen, the drip from the ceiling has begun dripping again. We'll have another delay until we figure out another solution," explained the public address announcer.

Event staff cleared the far bleachers as officials considered removing the stands to play on the court under the seats. But men's Vikes coach Craig Beaucamp said that wasn't a realistic option.

"There's safety issues there.... The cables that run the clock don't reach to that court, so there are some logistic problems as well," said Beaucamp.

UVic athletics and recreation director Clint Hamilton agreed.

"I did not have the confidence we could have that facility set up in a timely fashion."

After an hour of waiting, Hamilton addressed the crowd, informing them the two matches would be postponed until Jan. 7.

Hamilton said afterward that officials wanted to determine the reason for the leak before they postponed the match. However, that required sending Campus Security onto the roof.

"There's a number of flooding issues on campus, so it took some time to get the people here," said Hamilton, who also went up on the roof.

The postponement halted the Vikes' momentum—the team played a very strong first quarter.

"It's frustrating," said guard Marin McCue. "It would have been nice to finish that off."

Beaucamp said the decision was the right one given the circumstances, adding with a laugh, "This is the first rainout since I played baseball back in Saskatchewan."

Vikes guard Cyril Indrome stayed around with two teammates to shoot after fans were sent home.

"It could have been worse," he said. "We heard what happened at BC Place, how their roof collapsed."

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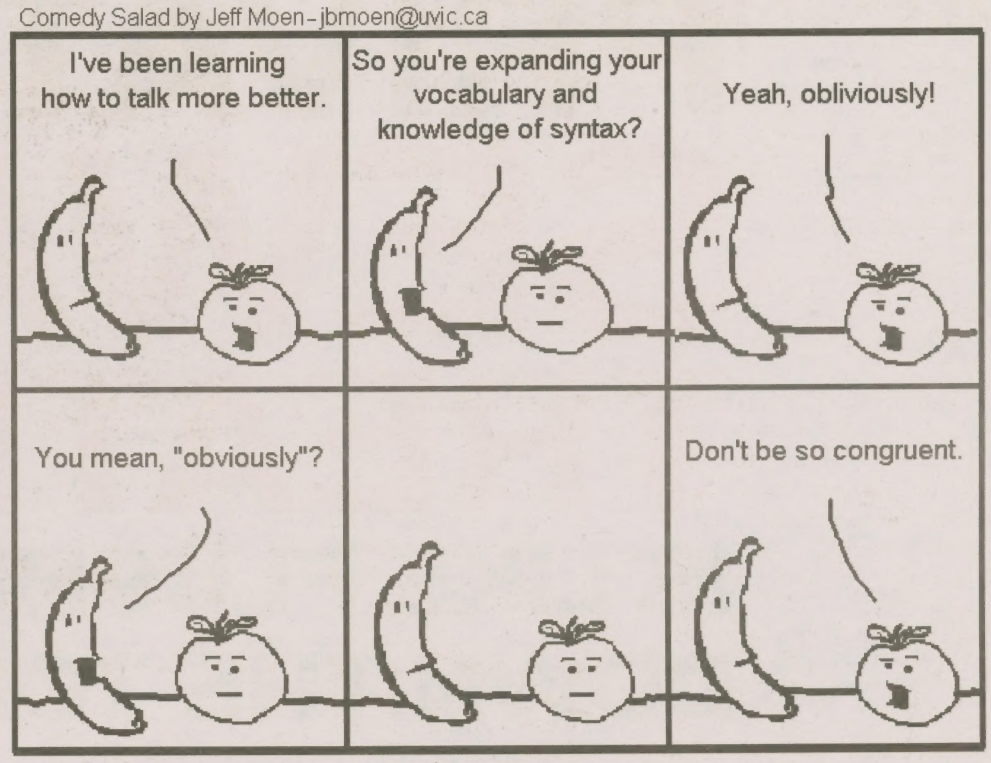
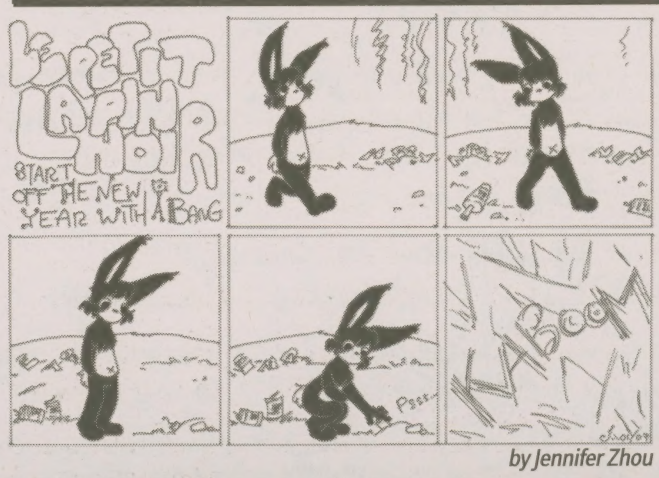
SLOS!

Comedy Salad by Jeff Moen - jbmoen@uvic.ca


I've been learning how to talk more better.
So you're expanding your vocabulary and knowledge of syntax?
Yeah, obliviously!
You mean, "obviously"?
Don't be so congruent.



by Jennifer Zhou

Draw comics for the Martlet!
grafx@martlet.ca

MeiCom *by Mary Karaplis*

Alternate Universe Comics *by TK Longmire*

All of society is a farce, always bringing the reflective individual down to their level.
Just because I have more definitive fins than them, the groupthink 'society' sends their hounds to tell me to get over myself.
WELL FUCK YOU, I READ KIERKEGAARD ASSHOLE

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PRIVATIZING SEWAGE TREATMENT

IS LIKE FLUSHING MONEY DOWN THE TOILET

The provincial government wants to hand control of our sewage treatment to private corporations – even though they have a poor track record on protecting the environment and the public interest.

They call it public-private partnership (P3).
We call it a big mistake that can still be avoided.

That's why we're asking the Capital Regional District to make the right decision – and build an innovative, integrated sewage treatment system that is publicly-managed and publicly-delivered.

Let's make the right decision

Publicly-run sewage treatment:

clean
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A message from the people who live here and provide services in our communities – the Canadian Union of Public Employees.